

71 SEP 56
17

L. King

**ALDRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of

Health and Sanitary Condition
of the

Aldridge Urban District
For the Year ending 31st December, 1955

by

V. E. MILNE
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

U. BOOCOCK
M.S.I.A.
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



NORMAN A. TECTOR, LTD.,
Printers and Publishers,
Aldridge Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

V. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Part-Time Officer.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

U. BOOCOCK, M.S.I.A.

Whole-Time Officer.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

K. B. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A.

D. G. RELPH, M.S.I.A.

(Appointed 1st February, 1955).

Clerks :

MISS B. M. MOORE

MISS B. R. JONES

To the Aldridge Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Thirty-first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1955, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 of the 23rd November, 1955.

Area

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

Population

The estimated resident population at mid-summer, 1955, was 33,100 (an increase of 1,660 from the previous year). This gives a population of 3.565 per acre.

Inhabited Houses

The number of inhabited houses, according to rate books, at 31/12/55 was 9,667, an increase of 549 from last year.

Rateable Value

The Rateable Value was £170,009, and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £638 for the year 1955-56.

Social Conditions

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are: Brickmaking, mining, agricultural, and heavy industries are now being established. The district is also largely residential.

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics relate to the nett births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General:

Live Births—

		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	..	252	252	504
Illegitimate	..	10	4	14
		—	—	—
		262	256	518
		—	—	—

Of these 518 births, 235 were registered locally, the remaining 283 being transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 45.3 per cent of the births were, therefore, registered locally, which is less than the percentage last year (viz., 49.7).

AREA COMPARABILITY FACTORS (A.C.F.)

The A.C.F.'s (used in calculating the corrected Birth and Death Rates) are the same as for 1954, viz., for Births 0.94 and for Deaths 1.40.

The unadjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 15.65 and the corrected Live Birth Rate 14.71.

The Live Birth Rate (15.65) compares favourably with the Live Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales, viz., 15.0.

It should also be noted that only one birth took place in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, where approximately 1,450 inmates and staff reside. It follows therefore, there were 517 live births amongst the remainder of the population, viz., 31,650 (that is, 33,100 less 1,450). Excluding St. Margaret's Hospital, the unadjusted Live Birth Rate for the district was 16.33 and the corrected Birth Rate was 15.35 for the year 1955.

Illegitimate Birth Rate.—This rate as calculated above was 0.42.

Still Birth Rate.—17 Still Births (Males 6, females 11) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 31.77, or 0.51 per 1,000 of the population. The Still Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.1.

For the year 1954 the adjusted Live Birth Rate was 13.16 and the Still Birth Rate 25.64.

Death Rate.—There were 245 deaths (males 149, females 96). The crude Death Rate was 7.40 and the Corrected Death Rate 10.36 per 1,000 of the population. The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7.

Of the 245 deaths registered in 1955, 19 occurred in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, so that 226 deaths occurred amongst the remainder of the population.

Excluding St. Margaret's Hospital, the Crude and Adjusted Death Rates for the district are 6.83 and 9.56 respectively.

Seventy deaths were transferred into the district and seven were transferred out.

Infantile Death Rate.—16 infants under one year of age died (of these, 11 were under four weeks of age), giving an Infantile Death Rate of 30.88 per 1,000 live births.

The infantile death rate (all causes) for the whole of England and Wales was 25.0 per 1,000 Live Births, the lowest ever recorded in this country.

The infantile death rate for the district was 17.54 for the year 1954.

No illegitimate Infant died under one year of age.

No death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Cancer, etc.—42 deaths resulted from Cancer and included in these were 9 deaths due to cancer of the lung and/or bronchus.

Cancer—Reports (Bronchogenic, etc.). A detailed report on all cases of bronchogenic carcinoma who had been normally resident in the District, and who had died from the disease between 1/1/49 and 31/3/55 was sent to the County Medical Officer of Health in April, 1955, at the request of the Medical Research Council (Medical Research Unit) by reason of the fact that the ratio of male and female deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus had a large male excess in Staffordshire Urban Districts during this period.

Since January, 1955, details of persons normally resident in the Aldridge Urban District who die of Cancer (all kinds) are being forwarded monthly to the County Medical Officer of Health.

No death was due to Diphtheria, and ten resulted from Pneumonia.

Measles Epidemic.—911 cases of measles were notified as follows :

Aldridge	..	..	..	..	276
Pelsall	..	..	..	..	220
Pheasey	..	..	..	..	133
Rushall	..	..	..	..	131
Gt. Barr	..	..	..	..	79
Streetly	..	..	..	..	72

No death, however, occurred amongst this large number of cases.

Laboratory Facilities.—The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood, etc.

During the year reports on four swabs from throats, etc., and seven specimens of blood, faeces, etc., were received. Eighteen specimens of sputa were examined for tubercle bacilli (1 positive and 17 negative).

General Provisions of Health Services

The following services are provided by the Staffordshire County Council, as the Local Health Authority :

Ambulance Service.	Ante-Natal Clinics.
Home Help Service.	Infant Welfare Centres.
Diphtheria Immunisation (Private Practitioners, and at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics).	

Laboratory Services.—The Public Health Laboratory Services, Martin Street, Stafford (Tel. : Stafford 377). Director, Lt.-Col.

R. N. Phease (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

Chemical Analysis.—County Analyst, A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford (Tel. : Stafford 578).

Hospitals.—Those chiefly used are : The General, The Manor and St. John's Hospitals, Walsall, The Birmingham and Wolverhampton Hospitals, and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals. Admissions are usually arranged by General Practitioners.

Maternity Accommodation.—Hospitalization, on medical grounds is arranged by the patient's Doctor, and for unsuitable home conditions, after investigation by the Health Visitor, by the Hospital Management Committee of the area in which the applicant resides.

Small Pox.—Treatment and hospitalization are arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Disease.—Clinics are held at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, for diagnostic, consultative and curative purposes.

Tuberculosis.—Treatment is now arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Water

The Aldridge Urban District is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer, has kindly let me have the following information for the year 1955 :

1. The supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

2. The supply is at present chiefly derived from one Pumping Station (Bourne Vale Pumping Station) within and six Pumping Stations outside the boundaries of the Urban District. A proportion of water from surface sources is also supplied to parts of the District.

Regular and frequent samples of all the waters are examined both bacteriologically and chemically.

Bacteriological samples are also examined of the water prior to treatment where possible.

During 1955, a total of 278 samples from Barr Beacon Reservoir, 53 samples from Bourne Vale Pumping Station and 12 samples from the Waterman's house, Aldridge, were all free from coliform bacteria. The average chemical results for 1955 for the samples taken from the Waterman's house, Aldridge, were as follows :

pH	7.3			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	138	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	23.6	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	6.3	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C) .. .. .	.12	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	131	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	101	"	"	"
Total Hardness	232	"	"	"
Total Solids	337	"	"	"
Iron (Fe) .. .. .	.02	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	"	"	"
Calcium (Ca)	83.6	"	"	"
Magnesium (Mg)	4.1	"	"	"
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	"	"	"
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	Nil	"	"	"
Free Cl. .. .. .	.03	"	"	"

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, all 12 samples from the Waterman's house being free from any detectable quantity of lead.

4. Chlorination is practised, as a precautionary measure, at most of the Pumping Stations.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

5. The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Urban District of Aldridge at 31st December, 1955, was 9,578.

This information indicates that the quality and quantity of the water supply throughout the District has been most satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated wells in the less thickly populated parts of the District.

Public Cleansing

The refuse collection and disposal service has been maintained at a high standard. Notwithstanding increased costs and the steady increase in the number of houses to be dealt with, the service has been carried out efficiently and economically under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. (Full details are contained in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.)

Housing

The number of houses erected during the year 1955 :

Erected by Local Authority

Otherwise

Erected during	In course of erection at end of	Erected during	In course of erection at end of
1955	1955	1955	1955
192	356	551	540

TOTALS : Erected during 1955	..	..	..	743
In course of erection at end of 1955	..	..	..	896

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act, 1936, etc., will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Slum Clearance

The following houses were demolished during the year :

Aldridge Ward	..	..	..	1
Pelsall Ward	..	..	..	5
				—
Total	..			6
				—

Sampling of Milk and Foods

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods, and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst. (See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital Accommodation.

The arrangements for admissions of Infectious cases are usually made by the General Practitioner in attendance.

Schools

It was not considered necessary to close a school on account of infectious disease, but 36 children comprising one class of a school (Church of England School, Great Barr) together with the class Teacher, were excluded from School from October 5th to October 24th, 1955, on account of a case of suspected poliomyelitis.

Diphtheria

No case of diphtheria was notified during 1955.

At the request of a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health a full report on the four cases of diphtheria which occurred in the year 1954 was forwarded on 1st April, 1955. The report contained all the available clinical information in respect of each of the four cases, obtained from the parties concerned.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This service is conducted by the County Authority, and the children are immunised by the County Medical Staff and General Practitioners.

Assuming the age groups of the population have not recently materially altered, the estimated age groups at June 30th, 1955 (when the estimated total population was 33,000) were as follows :

0— 4 Age Group	..	..	..	..	3,260
5—14 Age Group	..	..	..	..	5,727

For the previous year these figures were 3,098 and 5,440.

The following information has been given by Dr. C. E. Jamison, the Area Medical Officer :

The numbers of children immunised for the first time during the year 1955 were :

Under 5 years of age	..	..	..	340
5—14 years of age	..	..	..	213
Total				553

The number of children re-immunised during the year 1955 was :
All ages 765

Immunisation state as at 31st December, 1955 :

		Ages :	
		Under 5 years	5—15 years
Children immunised since 1951	..	1,138	3,129
Children immunised during the period 1941—1950	.. ..	—	2,288

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1955

Disease	Total Cases notified after correction	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—
Small-Pox	—	—
Scarlet Fever	26	—
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid ..	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—
Pneumonia	24	10
Meningococcal Infection	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Dysentery	4	—
Measles (excluding Rubella)	911	—
Whooping Cough	123	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—
„ „ (Non-Paralytic)	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—
Food Poisoning	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	1 }	—
„ „ (Post Infectious)	1 } 2	—

Analysis of the Infectious Cases (after Correction) in Age Groups and in Wards is given below :

Age Groups			Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Polio- myelitis
Under 1 year	..	..	—	—	42	9	—
1-2 years	..	..	1	—	113	22	—
3-4 years	..	..	4	—	227	37	—
5-9 years	..	..	15	—	501	52	—
10-14 years	..	..	6	—	18	1	—
15-24 years	..	..	—	—	5	1	—
25 and over	..	..	—	—	5	1	—
Ward							
Aldridge	..	..	13	—	276	48	—
Great Barr	..	..	—	—	79	7	—
Pheasey	..	..	4	—	133	11	—
Pelsall	..	..	2	—	220	23	—
Rushall	..	..	5	—	131	17	—
Streetly	..	..	2	—	72	17	—
			26	—	911	123	—
Cases notified from Insti- tutions and included in the above figures			—	—	—	—	—

Age Groups			Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonotorum	Dysentery	Typhoid and Para- Typhoid Fever	Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
0-4 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
5-14 years	..	..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15-44 years	..	..	10	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45-64 years	..	..	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward											
Aldridge	..	..	14	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Great Barr	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pelsall	..	..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pheasey	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Rushall	..	..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streetly	..	..	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	..		24	3	—	1	—	4	—	2	—
Cases notified from Insti- tutions and included in the above figures ..			1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

It will be seen that only one case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The following table shows the number of certain Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1955 and the attack rates per 1,000 of the population :

	Cases	Rate
Smallpox	—	—
Typhoid	—	—
Para-Typhoid	—	—
Scarlet Fever	26	0.78
Whooping Cough	123	3.71
Diphtheria	—	—
Erysipelas	3	0.09
Pneumonia	24	0.72
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0.03
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	911	27.52

Poliomyelitis

Happily, no case of Poliomyelitis was notified in 1955.

Small Pox

No case, or suspected case of small pox was brought to my notice.

Accommodation is available at Witton Small Pox Hospital for the isolation and treatment of suspected or confirmed cases of small pox.

Tuberculosis

Thirty-seven cases of tuberculosis (see table below) were entered on the Register, 31 Pulmonary and 6 Non-Pulmonary.

Eight cases occurred in Aldridge, 8 in Rushall, 3 in Pelsall, 10 in Pheasey, 1 in Streetly and 7 in Great Barr.

Four of these 37 cases were notified from Institutions and 14 cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification on Form “ A ” as follows :

Inward Transfers	7
Forms 1 or 2 (from Institutions)	1
First notification after death	6
	—
	14
	—

It will be seen 7 cases were transferred into the District. Seven cases were also transferred out.

The inward transfers came to reside as follows :

In Pheasey 6, and Rushall 1.

Nineteen cases were removed from the Register on account of :

Death	9 cases
“ Recovered ”	3 „
Outward Transfers	7 „
	—
	19 cases
	—

The following table shows the total number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year, classified according to sex and age at the time of the notification.

The total on the Register increased by 18 during the year 1955, i.e., 195 against 177 at 31/12/54.

Age Groups				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				Male	Female	Male	Female
0-1 year	..	..	..	1	—	—	—
1-5 years	..	..	..	4	2	2	1
5-10 years	..	..	..	5	4	2	2
10-15 years	..	..	..	7	2	1	2
15-20 years	..	..	..	10	14	—	3
20-25 years	..	..	..	13	16	2	2
25-35 years	..	..	..	21	20	2	—
35-45 years	..	..	..	17	15	1	3
45-55 years	..	..	..	10	4	1	—
55-65 years	..	..	..	5	—	—	—
Over 65 years	..	..	..	1	—	—	—
Totals				94	77	11	13

The notification of Tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Six deaths from Pulmonary and 2 deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered, giving a death rate per 1,000 of the population 0.18 and 0.06 respectively.

General Register Office Circular (M.O.H.) 4/1952 laid down that from 1st January, 1953, all deaths (including tuberculosis deaths) in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, must not be regarded as outward transferable deaths.

The following table shows the cases of Tuberculosis entered on the register and the number of deaths, according to the death returns, from this disease (classified according to age and sex) during the year 1955.

Age Periods	Cases entered in Register				Deaths			
	Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female	Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female
0-1 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 years	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 years	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
20-25 years	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
25-35 years	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 years	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
45-55 years	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65 years	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and up	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	17	14	4	2	6	—	1	1

It was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any case of infectious disease to hospital.

Food Poisoning

No notification of food poisoning was received during 1955.

Food Hygiene

An address was delivered in July, 1955, to the Women's Institute, Aldridge. The meeting was well attended and I formed the opinion the address was well received and that Food Hygiene is a subject which is now receiving considerable thought by the public generally.

Survey of Teething Powders

As there had been a few recent cases of infant deaths where the cause had been recorded as pink disease due to the ingestion of teething powders containing mercury ("grey powders") the Minister of Health requested that a survey of the shops in the district (other than Chemists) likely to stock such powders, should be made. The survey was duly carried out, 74 shops being visited ; 12 were found to have a total of 362 powders in stock, most of which were returned to the distributors, and a few were surrendered voluntarily.

Mortuary

The new Mortuary, Anchor Road, Aldridge, came into use on 14th November, 1955, and the temporary arrangements for the use of the Mortuaries in Brownhills and at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, ceased from this date.

A part-time attendant is employed, and the over-all arrangements made for the conduct of this service, are so far, proving satisfactory.

I am pleased to report full co-operation of the Police has been obtained, no complaint has been received from any source, and the facilities provided have met with the approval of the Medical Practitioners who have had occasion to make use of the Mortuary.

Privies

The number of privies remaining throughout the district is 17 ; these are in situations where a public sewer is not available.

Vaccination

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917 (see Small Pox).

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47)

A person aged 75 was removed to a suitable hospital for chronic sick persons in November, 1955. Fortunately all arrangements were executed without resort to a Court Order.

Both this person's house and its inhabitants were heavily infested with vermin and were disinfested.

Rushall Brook Course

I am pleased to report that the cleansing of approximately 1,300 yards, from the Barns Lane Sewage Works to nearly Pelsall Lane, Rushall, has now been completed, and that the cleansing of the remainder of the brook course from Pelsall Lane to the District boundary will be carried out in the near future.

Caravans

The numbers of caravans, on various sites, throughout the District, are steadily but surely increasing, in spite of the Council's policy to discourage their use as permanent dwellings.

It would appear the Council have insufficient legal powers to satisfactorily cope with this problem.

Mass Radiography Unit

Mass Radiography Survey carried out by a Birmingham Mobile Unit at Wesley Church Hall, Aldridge, 5th September to 13th September, 1955.

The following report gives details of the work done and the results obtained by the Unit during this visit.

Groups Examined :

			Male	Female	TOTAL
1.	Schools	.. ..	146	124	270
2.	Miscellaneous Firms	.. ..	213	165	378
3.	General Public	.. ..	291	407	698
			<hr/> 650	<hr/> 696	<hr/> 1,346

Recalls :

31 persons of those examined during the survey were recalled for further investigation and of these, 7 were seen by the Medical Director.

Results of Survey :

1. Tuberculosis Discovered :

Group			ACTIVE	INACTIVE		
			*Referred	*Referred	Doctor	No Action
1.	Schools	.. ..	—	—	—	—
2.	Miscellaneous Firms	.. ..	—	1	1	1
3.	General Public	.. ..	1	—	3	—
			<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1

*" Referred "—The family doctor was advised to refer the patient to the Chest Clinic for investigation or treatment.

2. Non-Tuberculous Conditions :

	Group	*Referred	Doctor	No Action
1.	Schools	—	—	—
2.	Miscellaneous Firms ..	—	3	—
3.	General Public ..	5	5	—
		—	—	—
		5	8	—
		—	—	—

*“ Referred ”—The family doctor was advised to refer the patient to the Chest Clinic for investigation or treatment.

Comments :

The findings were, from a Public Health point of view, very satisfactory. It will be noted 1,346 were X-rayed, 31 were recalled for large film and 7 were clinically examined. Only 1 presumably active, and 6 presumably inactive cases of Tuberculosis were discovered. Thirteen cases of non-tuberculous disease were found, consisting mostly of abnormal hearts. The above results do not differ substantially from those of the 1954 survey, when 2 presumably active cases were found out of a total of just over 2,000 X-rayed.

Grateful thanks are due to the Medical Director, the Organising Secretary and the staff of the Unit for their close co-operation, efficient conduct of the Survey, and for their detailed reports.

Mass Radiography Unit — Walsall Sessions.

The above service was initiated in April, 1955, as follows :

Location.—Ambulance Depot, Hatherton Road, Walsall.

Times.—1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons each month.

The cases X-rayed at these sessions are referred by General Practitioners, industrial Medical Officers, etc. Members of the public are not examined unless they are so referred.

Experience has made it clear that the Unit is of greater value when the persons dealt with have been recommended as above.

General Remarks

The health of the population during 1955 was good.

The adjusted Birth Rate, it is pleasing to note, is somewhat higher than in the last few years, the rates being :

1951—11.85

1952—11.59

1953—12.20

1954—13.16

1955—14.71

(The unadjusted Live Birth Rate — 15.65 — is higher than the Live Birth Rate for England and Wales, viz., 15.0.)

The corrected death rate is higher than in the last few years :

1952— 9.79

1953—10.32

1954— 9.74

1955—10.36

The Crude Death Rate (7.40) is considerably lower than the Death Rate for all England and Wales, viz., 11.7.

The Infantile Death Rate (30.88) was higher (in 1954 it was 17.54). The rate for all England and Wales was 25.0 and was the lowest ever recorded for this country.

For the eighth consecutive year, it is most gratifying to record that no Maternal Death resulted from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

One Tuberculous person was re-housed during the year. The co-operation between the Housing and the Health Committees in the problem of re-housing tuberculous persons continues, as in the past.

It is disappointing that the furnishings of the Health Department, mentioned in last year's Annual Report, have not been improved, as they are considerably below the furnishing standard displayed by other Council Departments.

The work of the Department has been conducted efficiently during the year. The emphasis has been on Slum Clearance and this has demanded a considerable proportion of the staff's working time.

The Chief, Additional Sanitary Inspectors and other staff have conducted their respective duties conscientiously and willingly and have worked in close co-operation with each other.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's thorough working knowledge of the District and its requirements, acquired over many years, is of the highest value.

I again desire to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and also all fellow Officers and Council Staff, for the co-operation, consideration and courtesy received in the course of my duties during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. MILNE,
Medical Officer of Health.

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ENGLAND AND WALES FOR 1955

Live Births/Deaths—Annual rates per 1,000 population.

Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.

Infant Mortality—Rate per 1,000 related live births.

Birth Rate 15.0—0.20 lower than that for 1954.

Still Births 23.1—Compared with 24.0 for 1954.

Death Rate 11.7—0.4 higher than that for 1954.

Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age) 25.0—the lowest ever recorded.

This was 0.5 below that for 1954—the previous lowest.

The estimated total population for England and Wales for the year 1955 was 44,441,000, a decrease of 39,000 over the estimate for 1954.

TOTAL DEATHS

Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1955)

<i>Causes of Death</i>							<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
ALL CAUSES	..	..	..	..	..	..	149	96
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
4. Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
8. Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9. Other Infective Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	5
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	11
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
16. Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	17
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	4
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3
20. Other Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	29
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
22. Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
23. Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3
24. Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	8
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
34. All Other Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4
35. Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :							Male	Female
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	5
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :								
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Live Births :								
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	262	256
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	252	252
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Twenty-ninth Annual Report for the year 1955.

I would respectfully express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their constant support, and to the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk of the Council, and Surveyor, for the help and co-operation received from them.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and the supply of water has been maintained in a satisfactory state of quality and quantity throughout the year.

A few cases exist where the only water supply obtainable is from wells.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, with water closets provided for each individual house.

There still remains, however, some pail closets and privies in such areas where sewers are not available.

Number of privies remaining in the district	17
Number of pails remaining in the district	67

The following details are supplied by the courtesy of Mr. J. Mason, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor :

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

- (a) Foul water sewer, Hall Lane, Pelsall.
- (b) Foul water sewer, 325-349 Chester Road, Streetly.
- (c) Foul water sewer (intercepting) laid in Middlemore Lane to complete diversion of Aldridge flow from hydraulic main off Stubbers Green Road.
- (d) Storm water main drainage scheme for Aldridge in progress.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

(a) By Local Authority	192
(b) By Other Authority	—
(c) By Private Enterprise	551

Number of Houses in Course of Erection at the end of the Year

(a)	By Local Authority	356
(b)	By Other Local Authorities	—
(c)	By Private Enterprise	540

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK

(April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956)

Rats and Mice destruction work has been carried out throughout the year in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division.

One man is employed part-time as rodent operative. The time spent on rodent work during the year has been equivalent to 42% of the full working time of one man.

PREMISES INSPECTED

(To confirm Infestation or Otherwise)

		Totals Inspected		Found Infested		Found Non-Infested
Dwelling Houses (including						
Council Houses)	.. ..	86	..	61	..	25
Business Premises	.. ..	12	..	12	..	—
Council Premises	.. ..	2	..	2	..	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		100		75		25
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

VISITS TO CARRY OUT TREATMENT OF INFESTED PREMISES

Dwelling Houses (including					
Houses)	.. ..	..	..	..	654
Business Premises	.. ..	..	..	..	108
Council Premises (Tests)	.. ..	..	..	..	116
Sewers	.. ..	..	..	..	53
Council Premises	.. ..	..	..	..	53
					<hr/>
					931
					<hr/>

It should be noted that the service was considerably weakened from the period 20th November, 1955, to 12th March, 1956 (approximately 4 months) by reason of the Council being without a Rodent Operative — one man having left the service of the Council and a period elapsing before a suitable person could be engaged.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Contact with the brick industry has been maintained.

New industrial developments are also being kept under observation to avoid, as far as possible, nuisance from smoke and grit.

In the future development of industries in the district every precaution should be taken, by undertaking and covenant, that the firms concerned should not produce nuisance from grit, smoke and other gases.

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

(1st April, 1955, to 31st March, 1956)

I have the honour to submit herewith my Report on the work of collection and disposal of household refuse for the year 1955–1956.

Staff

The estimate (in the early part of the year) provided for the employment of a personnel of 18.

However, actual working hours signified the attendance of men at work amounting to an equivalent of 15 men each week throughout the year. It will therefore be seen that there was a shortage of staff actually at work equivalent to 3 men each week.

Before the conclusion of the financial year 1955–1956 the Council introduced a “ Merit ” bonus of £1 per week for each man making a full week’s work of 44 hours.

At the end of the year this promised to be an inducement for more regular attendance at work.

Absenteeism

Loss of one man working hours through absenteeism has been as follows :

One man hours lost by workers certified sick ..	4,489 $\frac{3}{4}$	or	11.2 %	of possible working hours
One man hours lost through causes other than certified sickness ..	1,009 $\frac{1}{2}$	or	2.4 %	„
Total one man hours lost ..	5,499 $\frac{1}{4}$	or	13.6 %	„

Bonus

The amount of bonus paid to men employed in the house refuse collection service is as follows :

			£	s.	d.
Incentive Bonus .. ..	..	..	1,020	6	6
Merit Bonus .. ..	..	..	75	0	0
Total Bonus ..	..	..	£1,095	6	6

Sick Benefit

The amount of wages paid as sick benefit to the staff whilst absent from work for reasons of certified sickness has shown a net cost to the Council of £489 17s. 2d.

Vehicles Employed

- One 13 cubic yard S. & D. Freighter Dust Cart.
Vehicle No. 4.
- One 13 cubic yard S. & D. Freighter Dust Cart.
Vehicle No. 5.
- One Fore and Aft S. & D. Tipping Dust Cart.
Vehicle No. 6.
- One Fore and Aft S. & D. Tipping Dust Cart.
Vehicle No. 7.
- One other vehicle was used during the temporary
absence of the Council's vehicle for overhaul and
repair.

Disposal of Refuse

Tipping has been carried out at Stubbers Green, Aldridge, on the Council's own land.

Progress of Work

The average period of collection in the districts, carried out by the respective vehicles, is as follows :

Side Loader S. & D. 4	..	..	..	8.7 days
Side Loader S. & D. 5	..	..	..	9.8 „
Fore and Aft Tipper S. & D. 6	..	..	..	9.8 „
Fore and Aft Tipper S. & D. 7	..	..	..	10.4 „
Hired Vehicle .. .. .	..	..	..	7.7 „
Average ..				<hr/> 9.3 days <hr/>

It should be remembered that during the year there was a constant serious shortage of labour, which had the undesirable effect of extending these periods.

COST STATEMENT SUMMARY 1955-56

	Collection £	Disposal £	Totals £	Percentage of total gross expenditure %
1. GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
1. Labour	5,996	306	6,302	52
2. Transport	2,500	486	2,986	24
3. Plant, equipment, land and buildings	2,743	243	2,986	24
Total Gross Expenditure	11,239	1,035	12,274	100
2. GROSS INCOME	—	53	53	—
3. NET COST	11,239	982	12,221	—
4. Capital Expenditure met from revenue (included in above) ..	837	106	943	
UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5. Gross cost per ton, labour only	12 5	7	13 0	
6. Gross cost per ton, transport only	5 2	1 0	6 2	
7. Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	23 3	2 0	25 3	
8. Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 339	£ 30	£ 369	
9. Net cost per 1,000 premises ..	1,091	95	1,186	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10.	Area (statute acres) — land and inland water	9,284 acres
11.	Population at 30th June, 1955 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	33,100 persons
12.	Total refuse collected (tons) — estimated ..	9,654 tons
13.	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	16 cwts.
14.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	10,307 premises
15.	Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly. Endeavour made to ensure weekly collection. Average collection attained over year	9.3 days
16.	Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point	3.5 miles
17.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	100%
18.	Total refuse disposal (of which — tons were disposed of for other local authorities)	9.651 tons
19.	Methods of disposal (salvage excluded)	
	Semi-controlled tipping	100%

A small amount of income has been made from oddments of waste materials, total value being £53.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections made re Housing Defects :

Informal	502
Public Health Act	191
Housing Act	5

Inspections made re Demolition 441

Inspections made re Clearance 377

Inspections made re Housing Act :

Certificate of Disrepair	11
Improvement Grants	111
Undertakings	12

Number of Visits re :

Overcrowding	23
Food Shops	11
Fish Friers	2
Cafe-Restaurant	6
Meat Preparation Room	2
Food Sampling	1
Milk Shops	11
Ice Cream Premises	4
Slaughterhouses	25

Factories	28
Outworkers	2
Drainage	307
Closet Accommodation	21
Cesspool	5
Dustbins	656
Refuse—House	254
Trade	45
Salvage	6
Vermin	46
Animals—Improperly kept	30
Ditches	10
Water Supply	7
Accumulations	24
Tents, Vans, Sheds	287
Smoke Abatement	9
Meat Inspections	277
Unsound Foods	7
Food Poisoning	1
Housing Accommodation	21
Rats and Mice (by Sanitary Inspectors)	40
Miscellaneous	291
Aged Persons	2
Infectious Disease :	
Inquiries	73
Disinfection—Premises	7
Mortuary -.. .. .	2
Total Visits ..	4,193

DUSTBIN SCHEME

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75 (3). Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Section 8.

During the year dustbins were supplied under the above provisions, as follows :

Dustbins supplied to private houses	486
Dustbins supplied to Council houses	122
	<hr/>
	608
	<hr/>

NOTICES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR

	Notices Served	Notices Completed	Other Notices Superseded or Rescinded
Informal ..	820	716	39
Statutory ..	54	47	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ..	874	763	40
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

FACTORIES ACT

Number of Factories on Register (including Bakehouses)	..	92
<hr/>		
Number of Visits made—Factories	.. .. .	28
Bakehouses	.. .. .	—
Outworkers' Premises	.. ..	2
<hr/>		
		30
<hr/>		

Sanitary Accommodation in Factories — Dealt with

Insufficient	.. .. .	1
Found defective	.. .. .	5
Not separate for sexes	.. .. .	—
Want of cleanliness	.. .. .	—
<hr/>		
		6
<hr/>		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Primary visits and inquiries	.. .. .	73
Disinfection of infected premises	.. .. .	7
<hr/>		
		80
<hr/>		

COMPLAINTS

Complaints received from the Public at the Health Department and dealt with, including all manner of subjects, drainage, house defects, nuisances, etc.	854
---	---------	-----

NATURE AND NUMBER OF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN HOUSES : TOGETHER WITH NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS

House Defects :

House Roofs	.. .. .	18
Ceilings, plaster	.. .. .	17
Walls, plaster	.. .. .	35
External walls, brickwork and pointing	.. .. .	10
Floors, boards	.. .. .	4
Floor paving, quarries	.. .. .	4
Windows, sash cords	.. .. .	11
Windows, frames	.. .. .	10
Windows, pointing around	.. .. .	1
Doors, frames	.. .. .	3
Doors	.. .. .	6
Firegrates	.. .. .	7

Firegrates, brickwork	..	..	..	..	..	2
Firegrates, hearth	..	..	..	..	..	1
Firegrates, mantel shelf	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chimney, brickwork	..	..	..	..	..	8
Chimney, pointing	..	..	..	..	..	4
Chimney, pots	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fireback boiler	..	..	..	..	..	1
Washboilers	..	..	..	..	..	1
General dampness	..	..	..	..	..	4
Chimney flues	..	..	..	..	..	2
Water service pipes	..	..	..	..	..	7

Closet Accommodation Defects :

Water Closet—Structure	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cisterns	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pedestals	..	..	..	..	..	8
Seats	..	..	..	..	..	4
Absence of flushing apparatus	..	..	..	..	..	1
Defective flushing apparatus	..	..	..	..	..	3
Joints	..	..	..	..	..	4

Drainage Defects :

Gully bed	..	..	..	..	..	4
Gully fenders	..	..	..	..	..	4
Drains, choked	..	..	..	..	..	3
Inspection chambers defective	..	..	..	..	..	2
Vent pipes	..	..	..	..	..	3
Eavesgutters	..	..	..	..	..	19
Rainwater downspouts	..	..	..	..	..	5
Sink waste pipe	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sink supports	..	..	..	..	..	1

Factories :

Sanitary accommodation found defective	..	..	..	5
Insufficient sanitary accommodation dealt with	..	..	..	1
Defective sanitary accommodation remedied	..	..	..	6

FOOD PREMISES INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF :

Inspections made :

Milk Shops	..	..	..	..	..	11
Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	11
Ice Cream Shops	..	..	..	..	..	4
Re Unsound Food	..	..	..	..	..	7
						—
Visits made for Supervision of Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	33
						—

An endeavour is being made to keep in contact with food premises.

Ice Cream and Preserved Foods

The following premises are registered under the provision of Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :

For the sale of Ice Cream	88
For the manufacture of Ice Cream	8
For the manufacture of Preserved Food (including Fish Frying)	14
	<hr/>
	110
	<hr/>

UNSOUND FOODS

The following goods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption :

	No.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Bovine head and tongue	6	119	—
head	7	128	—
tongue	1	3	—
lungs and trachea	10 sets	84	—
lungs	14 sets	117	—
udders	8	60	—
heart	2	9	—
omentum	1	4	—
livers and portions	19	356	12
mesentery	—	6	—
Short forequarter minus shin and brisket	—	34	—
Suet (kidney fat)	—	2	—
Sheeps lungs	512 sets	593	8
livers	89	177	8
hearts	6	2	12
heads	2	9	—
Pigs heart	2	2	—
pluck, lungs, heart and liver	3 sets	11	8
spleen and omentum	1	—	8
livers	11	21	4
lungs and trachea	1	2	—
kidneys	2	1	—
head	5	35	—
lungs	57	65	4
spleen	1	—	4
head and collar	1	10	—
Diaphragm and peritoneum	—	—	8
Leg of pork	1	9	—
	Tins	Lbs.	Ozs.
Corned Beef	3	18	—
Luncheon Meat	2	11	2
Corned mutton with cereal	1	6	—
	<hr/>		
Totals	6	1,898	14
	<hr/>		

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, DURING 1954

The following records of samples of milk and other foods, taken in the district have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

MILK

Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	42
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	32
Pasteurised Channel Islands	..	..	..	..	..	13
Tuberculin Tested Channel Islands	..	..	..	..	..	7
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	30
Total						126
Number of samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	126
Number of samples genuine	..	..	..	..	..	126

GENERAL FOODS :

Number of samples taken	..	..	..	..	92
Number of samples genuine	..	..	..	..	91
Number of samples below standard	..	..	..	..	1

Classification

Almonds, Ground	Flour, Plain	Orange Juice
Aspirin, B.P.	Flour, Self-Raising	Pineapple Pieces
Butter	Ice Cream	Pickling Spice
Buttered Brazils	Instant Whip	Peeled Tomatoes
Butter Selection (Sweets)	Jam, Gooseberry	Pea Soup (Thick)
Beetroot	Kraft Dinner	Raspberry Jelly
Bicarbonate of Soda	Lard	Sugar
Chicken (Boned)	Lemon Cheese	Stewed Steak
Corned Beef	Margarine	Salad Cream
Coffee and Chicory Essence	Margarine with Butter	Tapioca
Cheese Spread with Ham	Mixed Fruit	Tea
Cut Peel	Macedoine	Tomato Sauce
Chewing Gum	Mixed Vegetables	Tomato Chutney
Chicken Soup Mix	Marmalade	Vinegar
Epsom Salts, B.P.	Orange Drink	Whisky

Detail of Sample below Standard

Pork Sausage, containing Preservative, was found not to contain any Preservative.

MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1955

Designation	No. Submitted	Cleanliness		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Biological Submitted	Found to contain Tubercle Bacilli
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail		
Tuberculin Tested ..	18	16	2	—	—	—	—	12	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ..	87	81	6	86	1	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised ..	115	102	13	112	3	—	—	9	—
Sterilised ..	62	—	—	—	—	62	—	—	—
Totals ..	282	199	21	198	4	62	—	21	—

HOUSING

1. *Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :*
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts) 770
 - (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose .. 2,253
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 172
 - (b) Number of Inspections made for that purpose 414
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 116
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human inhabitation 654
 - (5) Houses on which undertakings were given and completed Nil
 - Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed 1
2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :*

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 172
3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*
 - (a) . Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. Nil
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 26
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By Owners 23
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. Nil

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----|
| (c) | Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 : | | |
| | (1) | Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 13 |
| | (2) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 4 |
| | (3) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Order | Nil |
| (d) | Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 : | | |
| | (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| | (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |
| 4. <i>Housing Act, 1936, Part IV — Overcrowding :</i> | | | |
| (a) | (1) | Number of dwelling-houses recorded overcrowded at the end of the year | 2 |
| | (2) | Number of families dwelling therein | 2 |
| | (3) | Number of persons dwelling therein | 16 |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | | Nil |
| (c) | (1) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | Nil |
| | (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | Nil |

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

U. BOOCOCK,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

